

Investigations and Assessments

Referrals for investigations of protective services are received from agencies, family members, and the community. Dunn County Department of Human Services staff will initiate an investigation within 24 hours of receiving of a referral. Appropriate referrals might include concerns regarding:

Definitions:

Elder adult at risk is legally defined as a person age 60 or older who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.

Adult at risk is legally defined as any adult who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation

- **Physical abuse** is defined as the willful infliction of pain or injury upon an adult by another adult. This includes beatings, assaults, or unreasonable physical restraints.
- **Sexual abuse** is defined as sexual assault or non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- **Psychological abuse** is defined as willfully inflicting mental suffering upon an adult, which could include verbal abuse, instilling fear and intimidation, isolation of the person and/or threats.
- **Neglect** usually involves the failure to care for a person in need. This could include failure to provide adequate food or water, neglect of personal hygiene, failure to provide a safe environment and/or medical care. Abandonment is also a form of neglect.
- **Self-Neglect** involves the inability to care for one's own basic needs, including health, welfare, and safety.
- **Financial exploitation** involves the misuse of monies or property. Transfer of property or funds without just compensation is always suspect.